

**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SOMERSET ACADEMY OF LAS VEGAS
OCTOBER 10, 2022**

The Board of Directors of Somerset Academy of Las Vegas held a public meeting on October 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at 385 W Centennial Pkwy. North Las Vegas 89084.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Chair Travis Mizer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Board members Travis Mizer, Sarah McClellan, LeNora Bredsguard (left at 7:11 p.m.), Will Harty, Cody Noble, John Bentham (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), and Renee Fairless (arrived at 6:05 p.m.).

Also present were Principal Lee Esplin, Principal Cesar Tiu, Principal Jessica Scobell, Principal Shannon Manning, Principal Mindi Palomeque, Principal Kate Lackey, and Principal David Fossett; as well as Dr. Jessica Barr, Somerset Inc. representative Suzette Ruiz, and Academica representatives Gary McClain, Ryan Reeves, and Marla Devitt.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Larissa Hodge provided public comment regarding the Aliante campus.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 22, 2022 BOARD MEETING**
- b. GENDER DIVERSE STUDENT POLICY**
- c. APPROVAL OF LOCAL LITERACY PLAN**
- d. APPROVAL OF REVISED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PLAN**
- e. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**
 - 1. SCHOOL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

4. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. DATA DISCUSSION WITH JESSICA BARR

Dr. Jessica Barr addressed the Board to provide a data review. The data to be reviewed was from the end results of the 2021-2022 school year. The State did not issue official Star ratings; however, everything was reported and the schools received a total index score. Dr. Barr explained that growth data was skewed due to the low percentage of students who tested in 2021. Dr. Barr noted that chronic absenteeism was a consistent concern across Somerset campuses and Nevada. She explained Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). Every subgroup, including every ethnicity, the IEP students, the English Language learners, and the economically disadvantaged, received its own report card. To ensure equitable performance across all sub-population there were certain minimum expectations for the subgroups. If a school did not meet minimum expectations for two years in a row they would be put on the TSI list. She provided an explanation of the consequences of receiving a TSI designation.

If a school improved from a 3 Star to a 4 or 5 Star school, the State would freeze the school as a 3 Star. Each campus highlight would include a “glow”, a “grow”, and a subgroup update.

Aliante Elementary:

- A GLOW: This is the highest Aliante Elementary’s data has ever been. We saw notable improvements in growth and Opportunity Gap performance.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 17.5%). The school will continue to focus on Math improvement.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is in **Year 1 of TSI** triggers and will specifically be targeting IEP student performance.

Aliante Middle School:

- A GLOW: Middle School data is improved in ELA, Math, and Science from year prior – ELA proficiency is at its highest since the school’s opening.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 20.9%). The school will continue to focus on improvement in Math AGP/Opportunity Gap performance.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Middle School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely.

Member Mizer asked if the surrounding schools had higher absenteeism rates, to which Ms. Barr replied in the affirmative. She noted that many of the surrounding schools for all campuses had higher rates; adding that at risk schools typically had higher rates.

North Las Vegas Elementary:

- A GLOW: Academic growth data is improved from prior year, specifically in the area Opportunity Gap performance. 3 star achieved for the first time.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 22.3%). English Learner data also showed a decrease from last year and will be an area of targeted support this year.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely.

Dr. Barr stated that the SPCSA would not be removing the Notice of Breach status for the North Las Vegas campus. Mr. Ryan Reeves addressed the board to confirm that the notices would not change. The schools would be scored using the metrics; however, the information would not be utilized for either benefit or detriment of the schools. Dr. Barr stated that the school needed to remain aggressive to continue growing. Member Bentham asked what the current absenteeism rate was for the campus. Principal Mindi Palomeque addressed the Board and stated it was high; however, it was lower than the rate from the 21-22 school year. She noted that the administration had committed to meet with the parents of the students with chronic absenteeism.

Lone Mountain Elementary:

- A GLOW: Lone Mountain has seen some significant improvements in academic data – specifically in ELA & Math growth targets. They also had very well-sustained Chronic Absenteeism (8.2%). Ranked 37th in NV!

- A GROW: The school is giving immediate attention to English Learner performance data. Science will also be a focus in grades 3-5.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely, again with specific attention being to EL students.

Lone Mountain Middle School:

- A GLOW: ELA growth & proficiency were well maintained and growth was consistent across all three grade levels.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 12.0%). Math will be a focus this year along with growth for non-proficient students in both areas.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Middle School is in **Year 1 of TSI** triggers and will specifically be targeting IEP student performance.

Losee Elementary:

- A GLOW: Academic data is the highest it has been since 2018 & growth data is at its peak. Opportunity Gap performance doubled since last year!
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 26.6%). The school is giving immediate attention to English Learner performance data.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is officially **TSI Designated** and will specifically be targeting IEP student performance. Chronic Absenteeism will be targeted across subgroups as well.

Losee Middle School:

- A GLOW: Academic data was improved in ELA, Math, and Science. ELA improvements significantly contributed to scores.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 23.9%). Math Opportunity Gap, though improved, will continue to be a focus.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Middle School is officially **TSI Designated** and will specifically be targeting IEP and English Learner student performance. Chronic Absenteeism will be targeted across subgroups as well.

Losee High School:

- A GLOW: Graduation data continues to be exceptional! We are excited to see enhanced ACT as we utilize a new assessment in High School.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 23.1%). The school is focusing on building out their CCR program. English Learners are also a focus.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: High School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely.

Principal Jessica Scobell addressed the Board and stated that chronic absenteeism was a focus for the campus. At three days absent, a letter was sent home; at six days absent, a parent conference with an administrator was required; at nine days absent, a second conference was held to warn about possible retention at the elementary level and credit loss in middle and high school. There had been considerable improvements in attendance in the first quarter of the year. Dr. Barr noted that an absence

with a legitimate doctor's note would not count against the school's chronic absenteeism rate. Principal Lee Esplin addressed the Board and stated that COVID absences, with a verified positive test, would not count against the school.

Stephanie Elementary:

- A GLOW: Math proficiency increases by almost 7% from year prior. Opportunity Gap performance improved in both subjects from prior year.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 22.1%). Some best practices regarding pacing, curriculum use, and D.I. were recommended for school implementation.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is in **Year 1 of TSI** triggers and will specifically be targeting IEP and English Learner student performance.

Stephanie Middle School:

- A GLOW: ELA Data saw nice improvements from the year prior. English Learner data for Middle School looked great and earned them full points!
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 24.7%). Math will be a focus this year within specific grade levels.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Middle School is in **Year 1 of TSI** triggers and will specifically be targeting IEP student performance.

Skye Canyon Elementary:

- A GLOW: Academic data looks exceptional – Almost full points received in all indicators. Ranked 6th of 449 elementary schools in Nevada! Highest performing Academica elementary!
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism, though well-maintained, will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 10.4%).
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely.

Skye Canyon Middle School:

- A GLOW: Academic data looks exceptional – Almost received full points in all indicators. Ranked 9th of over 200 middle schools in Nevada!
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism, though well-maintained, will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 12.8%).
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Middle School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely.

Skye Pointe Elementary:

- A GLOW: Academic data looks exceptional – specifically thrilled with how growth led to increased proficiency. Ranked 25th of 449 elementary schools in Nevada!
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 15.9%).
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Elementary School is in **Year 1 of TSI** triggers and will specifically be targeting IEP student performance.

Member Fairless asked if TSI status would prevent the school from achieving a 5 Star status. Dr. Barr replied that, if the school was designated as a TSI school it could be delegated a 3 Star school, even if it reached 5 Star status. She explained that most states provided extra money to TSI schools to triage the subgroups. Nevada was one of two states that punitively responded to TSI.

Sky Pointe Middle School:

- A GLOW: Academic data looks exceptional – specifically thrilled with consistency between ELA/Math performance. Ranked 9th of over 200 middle schools in Nevada!
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 16.2%). The school will also be putting some extra supports in with a specific grade level who had lower math performance last year.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: Middle School is in **Year 1 of TSI** triggers and will specifically be targeting IEP student performance.

Sky Pointe High School:

- A GLOW: Graduation data continues to be exceptional! We are excited to see enhanced ACT as we utilize a new assessment in High School.
- A GROW: Chronic Absenteeism will be a focus this year (2022 rate = 17.3%). The school is focusing on building out their CCR program options – this will put them back on 4/5 star pathway.
- SUBGROUP UPDATE: High School is currently safe from TSI, but we are monitoring subgroup performance closely.

Dr. Barr stated that both the Sky Pointe and Losee high schools were working to build out the CCR programs and were being strategic with the CTE and dual credit portions. She explained that the schools had to offer the program for three years, making it a process. Member McClellan asked what year the schools were in for their CCR programs. Principal Scobell stated that programs were fully developed at three years; however, the previous programs were not appealing to the students. New programs had been introduced that were more appealing to the students. Discussion ensued regarding CTE and dual enrollment options at the high school campuses.

Dr. Barr concluded by noting that the 21/22 school year had been a challenging year for education. During such a challenging year, Somerset had been really good for the students and had a lot to be proud of. She thanked the Board and the Somerset principals for actively inviting her to their schools to support the students.

b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A. EVANGEL AGADAGA, UNDER NRS 388A.515

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

MEMBER MCCLELLAN MOVED TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE STATE IN SUPPORT OF A. EVANGEL AGADAGA. MEMBER BENTHAM SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

c. SOMERSET PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Principal Cesar Tiu addressed the Board to provide Lone Mountain campus highlights. The Nevada Report Card was shared with the staff to ensure they understood every indicator. The MGPs were celebrated. Campus activities included the celebration of Bullying Prevention Month, a multicultural night celebration, Parent University, Leader in Me announcements by students, the development and posting of classroom mission statements, Quiz Bowl competition wins, and athletic competitions.

Principal Palomeque provided North Las Vegas campus highlights. Tutoring started with 97 students from the 114 invitations that were sent. The Apex fun run was successful, with over \$26,000 earned. The money would be used for classroom technology and education needs. Campus activities and updates included the MTSS cohort holding social/emotional small groups, an open house parent engagement night, celebrations for the Week of Respect, the Boo Bash would be October 27th, the start of the Reading Rodeo Walk to Read program, a new assistant principal had been hired, a retired CCSD principal was the new teacher mentor, and the campus was focusing on one habit per month for Leader in Me. Principal Palomeque concluded by noting that, although 57 parents showed interest in the PTO, no parents had come to the lunch to select the president and treasurer. Member Bentham asked if the invitation to tutoring had included incentives, to which Principal Palomeque replied in the negative.

Principal Shannon Manning addressed the Board to provide Aliante campus highlights. She toured Member Fairless' school to see the Walk to Read model. With the program, the students walk to different classes for differentiated learning to target specific deficits. Reading road checks were conducted based on Paw Power through iReady. Principal Manning stated that she started one on one data checks with each teacher to review data from last year, iReady data, progress monitoring data, and MAPs data. The lighthouse team would meet throughout the year and contribute to the school newspaper to promote the implementation of Leader in Me. Campus activities included an assembly with Jeff Velej on anti-bullying at the school, an assembly by the Rancho High School Folklorico and Mariachi group, and many sports/athletic events.

Principal David Fossett addressed the Board to provide Stephanie campus highlights. He stated that the campus had made improvements in chronic absenteeism, which would positively impact the Star rating. Dr. Barr had given the campus a breakdown by teacher and grade level. There was one specific grade level that underperformed so far that it pulled down the averages. One of the two grades used to measure growth was above average. Principal Fossett noted that the campus was working with other Somerset campuses using the same curriculum to provide observations and coaching. An assembly on kindness and anti-bullying was provided by police officers. He concluded by noting that the Leader in Me program was not as integrated as some campuses but was integrated into some areas.

Member Mizer asked if the Board could provide resources or help with the grade level that was significantly below. Principal Fossett stated that the interventions that were in place and the instructional changes should help the grade level. Member Mizer stated that he was a huge proponent of Leader in Me and encouraged Principal Fossett to implement it better. Member McClellan stated that, with new principals in the system, the Board should provide more discussion on the program.

Principal Esplin provided Sky Pointe campus highlights. He commended his Somerset colleagues for the amazing job they do. He stated that he had shared a video with his staff about lollipop moments. He would be providing his staff with lollipops to give away to someone who had made a difference in their lives. He recognized staff members every week. Principal Esplin stated that tutoring had started in elementary and middle school. The data goal for the school would focus on chronic absenteeism. Recent staff development had included amazing sessions. He noted that most Somerset elementary teachers had received or were receiving at least one section of LETRS training. Campus activities included a new podcast led by an assistant principal, a middle school vocabulary challenge, the Apex fun run, and the upcoming Fall Festival. Principal Esplin concluded with the Leader in Me program events.

Member Mizer asked what resources were available for grants and scholarships. Principal Lee stated that the counselors had a lot of information regarding grants and scholarships. The campus had held a FAFSA night with UNLV and CSN. The counselor posts scholarships and meets with students one on one. Member Bentham asked if Academica helped ensure that campuses were aware of possible scholarships. Mr. Reeves stated that Academica planned to hire a person to provide resources and support for the schools. Principal Scobell stated that the Public Education Foundation was a resource the schools could access. The foundation provided requirements, deadlines, and criteria for different scholarships within the State and across the nation. In response to a question by Member Bentham concerning special designations for the school, Principal Esplin stated that he had been researching becoming a Blue Ribbon School. Discussion ensued regarding Blue Ribbon designations.

Principal Scobell provided Losee campus highlights. The elementary campus had a much-improved atmosphere and energy. The staff was excited with the data results. A celebration for the 4th and 5th grade students who were proficient on the SBAC assessment would be held on October 26th. Interventions, which had been instrumental in the successful data results, would be incorporating math. Principal Scobell noted that one of the biggest factors that would contribute to continued growth in the elementary campus was that the students were remaining at the school. By knowing the students in the classes, the school was able to target interventions and improve productivity.

Principal Scobell stated that high school accelerated college prep classes had been added to the middle school to motivate students towards advanced placement classes in high school. An 8th grade geometry honors class had been added to help push the students deep into math. She noted that the high school atmosphere was totally different. The students and families were more engaged with activities such as volleyball games, football games, and Hispanic Heritage Night. The students were more involved in extracurricular activities. Principal Scobell explained that the Leader in Me program was being built at the elementary level. It would be incorporated at the middle school level and grow organically to the high school level. She concluded by noting that the school was fully staffed and had added an additional SPED teacher to work specifically with behavior modification of the elementary and middle school students.

Principal Kate Lackey addressed the Board, stating that the campus was excited about the growth. They held a 5 Star luncheon for the staff to thank them for their hard work and dedication, which resulted in the highest growth ever for the campus. During professional development, action plans were created for the bubble students. All specialists from the Somerset system were invited to the campus to collaborate. Principal Lackey noted that the campus was in the second year of Leader in

Me. They completed a measurable results assessment, which was sent to teachers, staff, students, and parents. The data was used to help drive some of the talking points on the school performance plan. Mission statements were posted outside of all classrooms and offices.

Principal Lackey explained that chronic absenteeism was a focus of the school performance plan (SPP). The SPP was also focusing on the IEP subgroup. The continuous improvement team had met twice. Other campus events included the NEHS and NJHS ceremonies, the fall festival, grade level monthly charity events, and iReady training. She noted that the sports teams were doing well, and the campus had three separate cheer events.

d. DISCUSSION REGARDING STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT PLANS FOR ALIANTE, LONE MOUNTAIN, SKY POINTE, AND SKYE CANYON

Principal Esplin explained that the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) required the school that did not have enough diversity in their population to create a recruitment and enrollment plan to become more diverse in their communities. Member Fairless asked if the free and reduced lunch (FRL) information was used to determine the diversity, to which Principal Esplin replied in the affirmative. The plans were included in the support materials and had been submitted to the SPCSA.

e. DISCUSSION REGARDING EFFORTS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO UNIFORMS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Principal Esplin explained that it had been noted that uniform access was a challenge for families in need. He stated that, although there was not a policy in place, each campus helped families if they were aware of the need. Member Mizer suggested tasking the principals to develop a policy. Member Harty asked if a policy was necessary. Member Fairless noted that there were sources available, such as McKinney-Vento or Title I funds. Discussion ensued regarding ensuring that all campuses and students were treated equally. Principal Esplin stated that the principals would work together to ensure consistency across all campuses.

f. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE EMO EVALUATION FOR ACADEMICA NEVADA

Principal Esplin stated that a survey had been distributed to the Board members to evaluate Academica Nevada. The survey consisted of sixty-seven questions across seventeen service categories. It was completed by five of the seven Board members. The overall performance for fiscal year 2022 was 3.25 out of 4. Overall the EMO provided a quality service. The information on areas for improvement would be shared with Academica Nevada. Member McClellan thanked the principals for providing assistance in completing the survey.

MEMBER BENTHAM MOVED TO THE EMO EVALUATION, AS PRESENTED. MEMBER HARTY SECONDED THE MOTION, AND THE BOARD VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. McClain addressed the Board to remind the members to complete the Board training. He thanked the members for taking the time to complete the survey and noted that the information was used to improve the support provided by Academica. Mr. Reeves reminded the Board members that the election was soon and encouraged the members to research the candidates and vote.

6. MEMBER COMMENT

Member Fairless complimented the principals and offered to send Mater staff members to the campuses for support. Member Bentham also complimented the principals. Member McClellan noted that it was great to hear about the collaboration among the campuses and congratulated the principals for their data and ratings.

Principal Esplin informed the Board that the land committee had met and was brainstorming ideas for the land.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:17 P.M.

Approved on: November 29, 2022

Travis Mizer

Travis Mizer (Dec 8, 2022 08:27 PST)

**Chairman of the Board of Directors
Somerset Academy of Las Vegas**